



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

August 1, 2000

S. 2787

Violence Against Women Act of 2000

As reported by the Senate Committee on the Judiciary on July 12, 2000

SUMMARY

CBO estimates that S. 2787 would authorize the appropriation of about \$3.2 billion for fiscal years 2001 through 2005 for programs to combat violence against women. Most of these programs would fund grants to state and local governments and Indian tribes. The bill also would extend the violent crime reduction trust fund through fiscal year 2005. In addition, the bill would make changes to the current laws relating to the immigration status of battered women.

Assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts, CBO estimates that implementing S. 2787 would cost about \$2.5 billion over the 2001-2005 period. This legislation could affect direct spending, so pay-as-you-go procedures would apply, but CBO estimates that any changes would amount to less than \$500,000 a year. The bill contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) and could benefit state, local, or tribal governments.

ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The estimated budgetary impact of S. 2787 is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget functions 550 (health) and 750 (administration of justice).

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars					
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION ^a						
Spending Under Current Law for Violence Against Women Programs						
Estimated Authorization Level ^{b, c}	436	17	17	11	0	0
Estimated Outlays	431	350	184	16	11	4
Proposed Changes						
Estimated Authorization Level	0	644	643	633	645	645
Estimated Outlays	0	190	429	615	639	639
Spending Under S. 2787 for Violence Against Women Programs						
Estimated Authorization Level ^b	436	661	660	644	645	645
Estimated Outlays	431	540	613	631	650	643

a. Provisions in S. 2787 relating to immigration would have an insignificant effect on direct spending.

b. The 2000 level is the amount appropriated for that year for the programs authorized by S. 2787.

c. The 2001-2003 levels are the amounts estimated to be authorized in current law for these programs.

BASIS OF ESTIMATE

For this estimate, CBO assumes that the amounts authorized in S. 2787 will be appropriated by the start of each fiscal year, and that spending would follow the historical rates for these or similar programs. In addition, CBO estimated the costs of some activities for which the bill does not provide a specific authorization of appropriations. Those activities, including grants to reduce crime against women on college campuses and several reporting requirements for the Department of Justice, would result in an estimated \$10 million in outlays over the 2001-2005 period. The bill's extension of the violent crime reduction trust fund would have no impact on the federal budget because the legislation would not authorize spending from that trust fund for any specific programs.

S. 2787 contains several provisions that would affect the immigration status of battered women and their children. These provisions could have a small effect on the amount of fees collected and spent by the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS), but we estimate that any net effect on INS spending would be negligible. In addition, these provisions could increase the number of battered spouses and children who qualify for certain federal public

benefits. CBO expects that any increase in direct spending for those benefit programs would not be significant.

PAY-AS-YOU-GO CONSIDERATIONS:

The Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act sets up pay-as-you-go procedures for legislation affecting direct spending or receipts. CBO estimates that the net changes in outlays that are subject to pay-as-you-go procedures would be less than \$500,000 for each year.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT

The bill contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA and could benefit state, local, or tribal governments. The bill would provide \$3.2 billion in grants over the 2001-2005 period to these governments and certain nonprofit entities. Most costs incurred by state, local, or tribal governments would be the result of complying with grant conditions and would be voluntary. The bill's provisions to aid battered immigrant women could increase the costs of social services provided by state and local governments, but CBO estimates that any such increase would not be significant.

PREVIOUS CBO ESTIMATE

On July 13, 2000, CBO transmitted a cost estimate for H.R. 1248, the Violence Against Women Act of 2000, as ordered reported by the House Committee on the Judiciary on June 27, 2000. That legislation authorized the appropriation of about \$3.6 billion over the 2001-2005 period, and did not extend the violent crime reduction trust fund or make any changes to immigration laws.

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